



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.7708 | FAX (517) 373.1450

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/gilbert/

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Contact: Scott Starr

517-373-7708

Gilbert Gets Tough on Improper Burials

LANSING—State Sen. Jud Gilbert (R-Algonac) announced today the passage of two bills that will make the improper disposal of human remains punishable with up to 10 years in prison and a \$50,000 fine.

“Impropriety in the death services industry has become a huge concern for families of loved ones who have passed away,” Gilbert said. “We want to ensure that anyone who mistreats a human body will be held responsible, while assuring families that this behavior is not acceptable. If you violate a grieving family’s trust, you will face serious consequences.”

Gilbert, a funeral director by trade and the primary sponsor of the legislation, originally began work on this legislation last year in the wake of the horrific tragedy in Noble, Georgia. There, a crematorium was found to have dumped the bodies of over 300 deceased persons on its property. During the investigation, it was discovered that ashes provided to grieving relatives were actually wood chips and powdered cement.

“It is my sincere hope that this legislation is never needed here in Michigan. But if tragic situations like this do occur, our courts should have a specific punishment in place that fits this unspeakable crime,” Gilbert said.

Senate Bills 508 and 511 now await consideration in the House of Representatives.

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Comments from Sen. Gilbert on improper burials are available for download on the Senate Majority Audiowire at www.senate.michigan.gov/gop or by calling the radio hotline at 517-373-4000.